

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01350 271225Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AGRE-00 SSO-00
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O 270900Z MAY 77 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6547
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1350

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION PARA 1)

S/S FOR PLANTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SGEN, OVIP, CIEC, AG
SUBJECT: CIEC MINISTERIAL: SECRETARY MEETING WITH BOUTEFLIKA:
UPDATE

REF: (A) STATE 121027 (B) ALGIERS 1347

1. MOHAMED ABERKANE, CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, TELEPHONED LATE
EVENING 26 MAY TO SAY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA
HAD BEEN DISCUSSING PROPOSED MEETING WITH SECRETARY AND
HAD ASKED HIM TO REQUEST FURTHER DETAILS ON MEETING,
SPECIFICALLY, FORMAT OF MEETING AND WHETHER MEETING
WOULD BE LIMITED TO POINTS COVERED IN SECRETARY'S LETTER
OR WHETHER IT WOULD COVER OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AS WELL
AS CIEC ISSUES.

2. IN ADDITION, ABERKANE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS, STRESSING
THAT THESE DID NOT COME DIRECTLY FROM BOUTEFLIKA BUT WERE
HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS AFTER HAVING DISCUSSED MEETING WITH
BOUTEFLIKA FOR SOME TIME. ABERKANE SAID THAT BOUTEFLIKA
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HAD STRESSED THAT HE WANTED HIS FIRST MEETING WITH
SECRETAR TO BE "IMPORTANT AND GOOD ONE" AND HE WANTED
TIME TO TALK OVER NOT JUST CIEC BUT ALSO BILATERAL
ISSUES. ABERKANE SAID THAT BOUTEFLIKA HAD NOTED THAT
CIEC SESSION WOULD BE STARTING AT 1100 ON MAY 30 AND
QUESTIONED WHETHER 1000 MEETING SAME DAY WOULD ALLOW
SUFFICIENT TIME TO ESTABLISH KIND OF RELATIONSHIP

BOUTEFLIKA WISHED TO CREATE. BOUTFLIKA WANTED MEETING TO BE "SUCCESSFUL AND NOT TOO RUSHED", ABERKANE STATED, AND HE DID NOT WANT IT TO BE ONE IN WHICH HE "WOULD JUST BE STANDING IN LINE" FOR QUICK NON-SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION.

3. ABERKANE SUGGESTED THAT IF 1000 TIMING WOULD MAKE MEETING TOO RUSHED, THEN PERHAPS MEETING COULD BE SCHEDULED AT OTHER TIME DURING CIEC SESSION IN ORDER TO GIVE SECRETARY AND BOUTEFLIKA TIME TO DISCUSS MATTERS IN DEPTH.

4. COMMENT: BOUTEFLIKA'S INTEREST IN LENGTHY SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE WITH SECRETARY ON CIEC, BILATERAL, AND OTHER ISSUES OFFERS US OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE RECENT ALGERIAN MODERATION, NOT ONLY AT CIEC NOW BUT ELSEWHERE IN FUTURE. WE SUGGEST IT IN OUR INTEREST TO RESPOND POSITIVELY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. SUCH A MEETING WOULD ALSO PROVIDE CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO BOUMEDIENE ON CIEC, MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH I AM DELIVERING TOMORROW.

5. ANY RESPONSE MUST BE NIACT IMMEDIATE FOR ALGIERS IF WE ARE TO GET IT TO BOUTEFLIKA BEFORE HE LEAVES. ABERKANE SAID BOUTEFLIKA COORDINATING HIS CIEC ACTIVITIES THROUGH AIT CHALLAL IN PARIS AND SUGGESTED THAT ANY RESPONSE ALSO BE PASSED TO AIT CHALLAL THERE.LYNE

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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